



Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
July 9, 2010

Decision Notice for
ENNIS FISHING ACCESS SITE
PROPOSED RIVER TRAIL PROJECT
Draft Environmental Assessment

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) in cooperation with Madison Byways, a community Trails group, proposed a project to create a walking trail loop through riparian meadows and along the Madison River within the Ennis Fishing Access Site.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by Madison Byways and sanctioned by FWP and released for public comment on June 2, 2010.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from June 2 through July 2, 2010. The EA was mailed to 35 individuals and groups.

Summary of Public Comment

FWP received no public comments on the proposed action.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with preferred alternative B, as described in the Ennis FAS Proposed River Trail Project Draft Environmental Assessment. In the preferred alternative, FWP proposes the following actions (which will be performed by Madison Byways with FWP scrutiny):

- Install a trailhead kiosk.
- Establish a trail on the native soil/vegetation that won't be scoured by water flow during ice gouging events that occur regularly in winter months.
- Mark the route and post interpretive sign numbers that link to information provided by brochures available at the trailhead kiosk.

- Replace the steel post barbed wire fence on the FAS property boundary with a pedestrian entrance of wood posts and rails to facilitate pedestrian traffic and continue to exclude motorized traffic other than authorized private and administrative access.
- The fence west of the lockable gate will be steel post and wire.
- Post a sign along the private land boundary on the south end of the trail loop to prevent trespass onto private land.



Gerald Walker
Regional Parks Manager
